



## Exercise 3.6

# Using Case Studies



A variety of case studies are presented in this training program. You can use them in several different ways during a workshop—as background reading material, to launch small group discussions, to compare themes, or to analyze various scenarios. Below are questions and strategies for each of the case studies.

**Objective:** Participants will be able to apply other successes and situations to their own involvement in the land-use decision-making process.

**Materials:**

*Presentation 5*  
Copies of the case studies

**Time:** 60 minutes

Choose the cases you wish to use for your training program and duplicate enough for everyone. You could ask all participants to read the same case and facilitate a large group discussion. You could ask small groups to answer the same questions and report to the larger group. You could ask small groups to read different cases and share their insights with others. You could truncate the cases into open-ended scenarios and ask people to discuss how they would proceed. **Presentation 5** provides slides to accompany each case study. Below are sample discussion questions that could help you promote discussion.

### Case Study 2: Conservation Development in South Carolina

- What advantages do developments like Sewee offer residents? What are the disadvantages?
- Do you think these types of development offer a realistic approach to natural resource conservation in the wildland-urban interface? Would they work in your region?
- How can natural resource professionals help conservation developments meet their objectives?

### Case Study 6: Improving the Urban Forest in Roanoke, Virginia

Trainers can also use **Exercise 3.2: Tracking the Policy Process** with this case.

- What obstacles had to be overcome and how was this done?
- Do you think a similar policy would work in your community? Why or why not?
- What do urban policies have to do with the wildland-urban interface?
- What role might you play in the development or implementation of a similar policy?

### **Case Study 10: Land Conservation along the Suwannee River**

- What is special about the Suwannee River Water Management District's land conservation program?
- How might programs like this one influence wildland-urban interface issues?
- What role might your agency play in the development, implementation, or management of a similar program?
- How common are conservation easements in your region? Would a large-scale land conservation program like this one be feasible in your area?
- What are some of the obstacles that may arise when implementing a similar program?

### **Case Study 12: Mediating for Change in Martin County, Florida**

- What were some of the growth-related challenges in Martin County?
- Why is stakeholder input important in the land-use decision-making process?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of consensus decision making?
- Is there a group like the Friends of Martin County in your community? Does or would your agency work with them? Why or why not?
- If there were a group like this in your county, how could you become a member of the group?
- Besides a land acquisition program, what other conservation tools could the group have encouraged the county to implement? What might have been the advantages and disadvantages of using those tools?

### **Case Study 14: New Urbanism in South Carolina**

- What new-urbanist features does the Habersham community offer?
- In your opinion, what are the advantages and disadvantages of how the development is designed?
- How can new urbanism foster resource conservation in the wildland-urban interface?
- How might such developments influence natural resource management?
- Are there any examples of new urbanism in your community? Describe them.

### **Case Study 17: Smart Growth Blossoms in Flower Mound, Texas**

- What are some of the innovative approaches used in Flower Mound development?
- Are these strategies realistic for every community? Why or why not?
- Are there examples of Smart Growth initiatives in your community? Describe them.
- What elements or conditions do you think are necessary in order for these types of policies to work?
- Do you think this is an effective approach to growth management and natural resource conservation?
- What role could your agency play in the development of similar community policies?

## Case Study 18: Stakeholders in the Planning and Zoning Process in Georgia

- See *Exercise 3.9: Background and Discussion Questions for Case Study 18*

## Case Study 20: Where Rural Reigns: Purchase of Development Rights Program in Kentucky

- Is rural land conservation important? Why or why not?
- How do you suppose rural land conservation affects wildland-urban interface issues?
- What is the Lexington-Fayette local government's goal for land conservation? Is this realistic? Why or why not?
- What role can natural resource professionals play in the implementation or management of a land conservation program?

## Case Study 23: Zoning to Conserve Greenspace in Davidson, North Carolina

- How do you think Smart Growth can affect wildland-urban interface issues?
- What are some of the benefits of the type of development described in the case study?
- Are you aware of greenspace conservation initiatives in your community?
- What does transportation have to do with the interface?
- Why do you suppose developments like the Bradford Neighborhood appeal to so many people?
- How does a requirement for affordable housing affect a subdivision and a town?